GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4818
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2002
NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH POLICY
VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a National Mental Health Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features thereof;

(c) the date by which the National Mental Health Policy is likely to be announced; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d) : There is no separate Mental Health Policy at the present time.However, the strategy that is being followed for treating the mentally ill are :

(1) Integration of Mental Health Care with primary care to promote early diagnosis and treatment at primary level.

(2) Strengthening of tertiary care facilities.

(3) Changing the nature of treatment from custodial to therapeutic; and

(4) Reducing the length of stay of the patients in the hospitals and promoting the process of treatment through family support and in the community as a whole.